

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2363

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, AWACS
SUBJECT: TURKISH VIEWS OF AWACS PACKAGE

REF: A) STATE 70746, (DTG 1903101Z MAR 78), B) USNATO 3126
(DTG 241825Z MAR 78)

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MULTILATERAL
AFFAIRS, MR. GUN GUR, MARCH 29, TO MAKE PRESENTATION PER REFTTEL.
GUR SAID THAT HE HAD ONLY RECEIVED THAT DAY THE AWACS PACKAGE
FROM THE TURKISH PERMREP, AND HAD MADE A PRELIMINARY REVIEW
AND DISTRIBUTED COPIES TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND TURKISH
GENERAL STAFF. GUR SAID THAT THE GOT HAD ALREADY INDICATED
ITS APPROVAL OF THE CONCEPT OF THE AWACS PROGRAM BUT THAT
THERE WERE SOME QUESTIONS THAT NEEDED ANSWERS BEFORE THE GOT
COULD ACCEPT WHAT WOULD BE FOR TURKEY "A VERY EXPENSIVE PROJECT."
THESE QUESTIONS, GUR SAID, WERE:

A. WOULD A FORCE OF SIXTEEN AIRCRAFT BE ABLE TO MEET
THE TURKISH PRE-CONDITION THAT "ANATOLIA" BE COMPLETELY
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WITHIN AWACS COVERAGE? ALTHOUGH THE AWACS PROGRAM ENVISIONS
EIGHTEEN AIRCRAFT, THE "CERTAINTY" THAT ITALY WILL NOT
PARTICIPATE WOULD REDUCE THE INITIAL FORCE TO SIXTEEN.

B. WILL THE U.S. BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTARY
SUPPORT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF AWACS TO REDUCE THE BURDEN
ON TURKISH RESOURCES?

C. WHAT KIND OF "GUARANTEE" CAN NATO GIVE THAT GREECE

WILL NOT CRIPPLE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AWACS OPERATIONS OVER
TURKEY BY REFUSING TO CROSS TELL AIR DEFENSE INFORMATION FROM
AWACS OPERATING OVER GREEK TERRITORY?

D. WHEN WILL THE TURKISH PRE-CONDITION OF A FORWARD
OPERATIONAL BASE (FOB) IN TURKEY BE CONFIRMED?

2. GUR PARTICULARLY STRESSED THIS LAST POINT (1D). HE
NOTED THAT THE AWACS PACKAGE TALKED VAGUELY ABOUT THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOB IN EITHER TURKEY OR GREECE BUT WAS
NOT SPECIFIC. GUR SAID THAT THE GOT DID NOT CARE IF A FOB
WAS ESTABLISHED IN GREECE BUT THAT ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE
SET UP IN TURKEY IF THE GOT WAS TO ACCEPT THE PROGRAM.
"AFTER ALL," HE SAID, "THERE ARE ENOUGH DOUBTS AS TO THE
MILITARY USEFULNESS OF AWACS WITHOUT ADDING POLITICAL
IMPEDIMENTS." WE NOTE THAT AMBASSADOR KIRCA REITERATED
THIS POINT (PARA 12, REF B).

3. GUR SAID THAT THE QUESTIONS HE RAISED WERE NOT NEW AND
HAD BEEN THE TOPIC OF INNUMERABLE CONVERSATIONS IN BRUSSELS.
HE NONETHELESS SAID THAT HE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE
THEM AGAIN IN THE HOPES THAT THE U.S. MIGHT BE INSTRUMENTAL IN
SEEING THAT THE NECESSARY ANSWERS WERE FORTHCOMING. GUR SAID
HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE U.S. SOUGHT APPROVAL OF THE AWACS
PACKAGE AT OR BEFORE THE DPC MINISTERIAL IN MID-MAY, BUT HE
NOTED THAT HE AND OTHERS IN THE TURKISH BUREAUCRACY
WERE ALREADY OVERLOADED STAFFING SUCH EQUALLY PRESSING MATTERS
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AS THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PLAN (LTDP).

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THE STATUS OF PLANS FOR AWACS FORWARD
OPERATING BASES AND THE PROSPECTS THAT AN FOB WILL BE LOCATED
IN TURKEY. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW WHAT
ARE THE PROSPECTS THAT THE U.S. MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUPPLEMENT
SUPPORT COSTS FOR AWACS OPERATING OVER TURKEY.
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